

**AMHERST REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**MINUTES**  
**February 24, 2010**

**LOCATION:** First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Coull, Aaron Hayden, Lawrence Kelley, Margaret Roberts, Jeanne Traester

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Scott Merzbach (Daily Hampshire Gazette), Walter Wolnik, Jonathan O’Keeffe (Planning Board)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Larry Shaffer (Town Manager), Jonathan Tucker (Planning Director)

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The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m.

**Election of Officers**

After nomination of a slate of officers, the Authority voted unanimously (5-0) to appoint John Coull as Chair, Larry Kelley as Vice-Chair, and Jeanne Traester as Clerk.

**Presentation**

Town Manager Larry Shaffer presented a concept for redevelopment of the section of North Pleasant Street between the downtown and the UMass campus, potentially including some properties within the campus.

**Old Business**

- a. *Potential Redevelopment Project Areas* - The Authority reviewed maps of several potential redevelopment sites in Amherst. After discussion of alternative sites, Ms. Traester Moved: to assign top priority to examining the “Gateway” area between the downtown and UMass. Mr. Hayden seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously (5-0). It was decided to invite representatives of the University to the next ARA meeting on March 10. A potential site visit to Storrs CT to review a campus-edge development was considered. There was discussion whether or not there would be a need for executive session when meeting with property owners. Mr. Shaffer said the circumstances for executive session would be clarified by Town Counsel.
- b. *Studies Needed* – Mr. Tucker indicated that an urban renewal plan would need to be developed for whatever projects the ARA decided to undertake. The ARA’s own funding and Priority Development (MGL 43D) predevelopment funding were discussed as

sources of monies to hire consultants. Ms. Roberts stressed the need for accurate appraisals as part of the process.

- c. *Redevelopment Process* – ARA members were referred to the print-outs on the process that had been prepared for them.

### **New Business**

- a. *Membership* – After discussion, Mr. Hayden Moved: to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the appropriate parties requesting that Ms. Traester be re-appointed. Ms. Roberts seconded, and the Motion passed unanimously (5-0).

### **Next Meetings**

It was agreed that the Authority would meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Planning Director

Approved:

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Chair